CERTIFICATION REPORT

Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)

Audit Number: AO-001919

WSAS WATER STEWARDSHIP ASSURANCE SERVICES

SITE DETAILS

Site: **Mengniu Dairy (Shangzhi) Co., Ltd.**

Address: No.9 Xiwang Street, Economic Development Zone, Shangzhi City, Heilongjiang Province, 150600, Shangzhi City, Heilongjiang, P.R. CHINA

Contact Person: Fangwei Jiang

AWS Reference Number: AWS-000882

Site Structure: Single Site

CERTIFICATION DETAILS

Certification status: Certified Gold

Date of certification decision: 2026-Mar-25

Validity of certificate: 2029-Mar-24

AUDIT DETAILS

Audited Service(s): AWS Standard v2.0 (2019)

Audit Type(s): Initial Audit

Audit Start Date: 2026-Jan-19

Audit End Date: 2026-Jan-21

Lead Auditor: Lorry Long

Audit team participants:

Andy Li

Site Participants:

Mr. Jiang, Senior Manager EHS
Mr. Jia, Logistic Manager
Mr. Wang, HR and Admin Manager
Ms. Sun, Operations manager
Mr. Li, Supplier Chain Manager
Ms. Wang, Finance Manager
Mr. Chen, Factory Manager

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ADDITIONAL INFO

Summary of Audit Findings: During the certification audit 4 of non-conformities and 3 observations were raised.

The Client is requested to perform a root cause analysis and define corrective actions for each of the non-conformities and to submit these to WSAS within 7 days of receipt of the audit report by 28/01/2026.

The non-conformities must be closed within 90 days of the end of the audit. In order to meet this timeline evidence is to be submitted to WSAS (within 75 days) by 06/04/2026.

The audit team recommends certification of Mengniu Dairy (Shangzhi) Co., Ltd. at Gold level pending approval of the corrective actions plan and closure of the non-conformities.

Scope of Assessment: The scope of services covers the Initial certification audit for assessing conformity of Mengniu Dairy (Shangzhi) Co., Ltd. against the AWS International Water Stewardship Standard Version 2.
Mengniu Dairy (Shangzhi) Co., Ltd. was established in 2005 and located at No.9 Xiwang Street, Economic Development Zone, Shangzhi City, Heilongjiang Province. The site covered the land area o 159,000 square meters with about 300 employees. The site includes 16 production lines, the production capability is 1581 tons per day. The site is a Dairy plant, and their products cover a variety of pure milk. The manufacturing process mainly includes sterilizing, filling, packing.
The site used the water by the municipal water for domestic and production from the local municipal water company (Shangzhi Fuyuan Water Supply Co., Ltd) and its ultimate water source is Xingfugou Reservior. The wastewater is treated by onsite wastewater treatment plant discharged into municipal WWTP (Shangzhi Longjiang Environmental Protection Water Affairs Co., Ltd.) and discharged to Wuzhu River, then finally discharged into the Mayi River. The rainwater is discharged into the municipal rainwater pipeline and then flows to Shuiquliu River and finally flows into the Mayi River.
The audit was conducted onsite on 19-21/01/2026.
The onsite site visit included the site visit covering production lines, wastewater treatment plant, chemical warehouse, stakeholder interviews, and documents review.

FINDINGS

NUMBER OF FINDINGS PER LEVEL

Observation	3
Non-Conformity	4

FINDING DETAILS

Finding No:	TNR-023697
Checklist Item No:	1.3.2
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	Site water balance, including inflows, losses, storage, and outflows shall be identified and mapped
Findings:	It is suggested that the site identify and map the water storage areas.
Finding No:	TNR-023721
Checklist Item No:	1.3.3
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	Site water balance, inflows, losses, storage, and outflows, including indication of annual variance in water usage rates, shall be quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water balance for people or environment, an indication of annual high and low variances shall be quantified.
Findings:	It is suggested that the site quantify the water storage.
Finding No:	TNR-023288
Checklist Item No:	1.4.2
Status:	Closed
Finding level:	Non-Conformity
Due date:	2026-Apr-21
Checklist item:	The embedded water use of outsourced services shall be identified, and where those services originate within the site’s catchment, quantified.
Findings:	The site did not collect the water consumption of its outsourced services, such as the treatment and disposal of solid waste and hazardous waste.
Corrective action:	Continue to conduct special communication with suppliers, fully explain the core purpose of this data research, the scope of information usage and confidentiality management requirements, and eliminate suppliers' concerns about information disclosure

Finding No:	TNR-023287
Checklist Item No:	1.4.3
Status:	Closed
Finding level:	Non-Conformity
Due date:	2026-Apr-21
Checklist item:	Advanced Indicator The embedded water use of primary inputs in catchment(s) of origin shall be quantified.
Findings:	The site did not collect the complete water consumption of suppliers and quantified the embedded water use date.
Corrective action:	Continue to conduct special communication with suppliers, fully explain the core purpose of this data research, the scope of information usage and confidentiality management requirements, and eliminate suppliers' concerns about information disclosure

Finding No:	TNR-023289
Checklist Item No:	1.5.6
Status:	Closed
Finding level:	Non-Conformity
Due date:	2026-Apr-21
Checklist item:	Existing and planned water-related infrastructure shall be identified, including condition and potential exposure to extreme events.
Findings:	The site did not identify existing and planned water-related infrastructure within catchment, including condition and potential exposure to extreme events.
Corrective action:	Carry out supplementary research on water-related infrastructure in the catchment, comprehensively investigate the core information of existing and planned facilities and complete verification and confirmation, and simultaneously assess the potential risks of extreme events.

Finding No:	TNR-023290
Checklist Item No:	1.6.1
Status:	Open
Finding level:	Observation
Checklist item:	Shared water challenges shall be identified and prioritized from the information gathered.
Findings:	It is suggested that the site clearly define the process of how to confirm the shared water challenges through extensive communication with stakeholders.

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Audit Number: AO-001919

Finding No:	TNR-022768
Checklist Item No:	4.3.1
Status:	Closed
Finding level:	Non-Conformity
Due date:	2026-Mar-06
Checklist item:	Consultation efforts with stakeholders on the site’s water stewardship performance shall be identified.
Findings:	The site does not consult with various stakeholders to obtain feedback on its water stewardship performance for 2025.
Corrective action:	Communicate the sustainable water management performance for 2025 to stakeholders in the form of supplementary questionnaires and collect feedback.

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WSAS WATER STEWARDSHIP ASSURANCE SERVICES

Report Details

Report	Value
Report prepared by	Lorry Long
Report approved by	Carla Oberdiek
Report approved on (Date)	25.March.2026

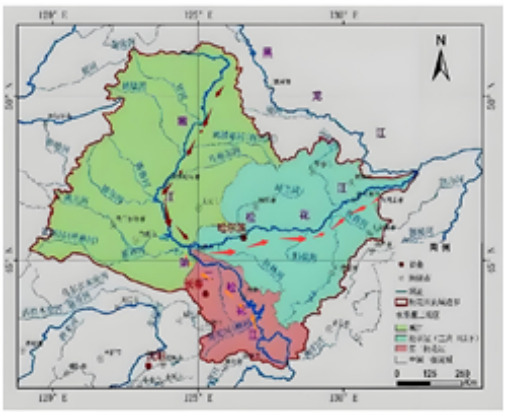
Surveillance

Proposed date for next audit
2027-Jan-21

Stakeholder Announcements

Date of publication	Location
18/11/2025	https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.tuv.com%2Fcontent-media-files%2Fgreater-china%2Fabout-us%2Fdownloads%2Faws-000882_%25E8%2592%2599%25E7%2589%259B%25E4%25B9%25B3%25E4%25B8%259A%25EF%25BC%2588%25E5%25B0%259A%25E5%25BF%2597%25EF%25BC%2589%25E6%259C%2589%25E9%2599%2590%25E8%25B4%25A3%25E4%25BB%25BB%25E5%2585%25AC%25E5%258F%25B8_stakeholderannouncement_202601_v3.0-billingual.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK
18/11/2025	https://a4ws.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/AWS-000882_Mengniu-Shangzhi_StakAnn_202601_V3.0-billingual.pdf
17/11/2025	https://www.mengniu.com.cn/contact/detail/25546.html

Catchment Information



Catchment boundary.jpeg

Catchment Information

Mengniu Dairy (Shangzhi) Co., Ltd. is located at No.9 Xiwang Street, Economic Development Zone, Shangzhi City, Heilongjiang Province. The site used the water by the municipal water for domestic and production from the local municipal water company (Shangzhi Fuyuan Water Supply Co., Ltd) and its ultimate water source is Xingfugou Reservior. The wastewater is treated by onsite wastewater treatment plant discharged into municipal WWTP (Shangzhi Longjiang Environmental Protection Water Affairs Co., Ltd.) and discharged to Wuzhu River, then finally discharged into the Mayi River. The rainwater is discharged into the municipal rainwater pipeline and then flows to Shuiquliu River and finally flows into the Mayi River.
Based on the location of water source, final discharge receiving body and the boundary of the site, all of them located in the Harbin - Tonghe Section of Songhua River Catchment.
The Songhua River Catchment is located in Northeast China, and it is one of the largest river catchments in China. With a vast drainage area of 546,000 km², it spans four provincial-level regions: Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning, and Inner Mongolia.
The Songhua River Catchment has an average annual runoff of approximately 76.2 billion cubic meters, indicating relatively abundant water resources. However, 70-80% of the runoff is concentrated in the flood season from June to September, while spring runoff (March to May) accounts for only 10-15% of the annual total, resulting in severe spring droughts. Water resources are abundant in the eastern mountainous areas (such as the Changbai Mountain region) but relatively scarce in the western Songnen Plain.
The Songhua River Catchment is one of the most flood-prone catchments in China, designated as a national flood control priority alongside the Yangtze River, Yellow River, Huai River, Hai River, Pearl River, Liao River, and Taihu catchments. Songhua River Catchment hosts multiple national-level nature reserves, highlighting its prominent ecological importance. Its wetland, forest, and grassland ecosystems remain intact, serving as a crucial ecological barrier and biodiversity hotspot in Northeast Asia. The Songhua River holds the highest economic value among all rivers in Heilongjiang Province.
Songhua River Catchment features large-scale inter-basin transfers projects, such as the "Songhua-to-Changchun" water diversion project. However, no inter-basin transfers exists within Shangzhi City.
The climate of the Songhua River Catchment is characterized as temperate continental monsoon, ranging from semi-humid to humid zones. Winters are cold and long (January mean temperature: -20°C to -30°C), while summers are warm and short (July mean temperature: 20-23°C). The severe winter cold causes rivers to freeze for 4-6 months, creating unique cold-region hydrological processes.

Client Description and Site Details

Site boundaries.png

Client/Site Background

Mengniu Dairy (Shangzhi) Co., Ltd. was established in 2005 and located at No.9 Xiwang Street, Economic Development Zone, Shangzhi City, Heilongjiang Province. The site covered the land area of 159,000 square meters with about 300 employees. The site includes 16 production lines, the production capability is 1581 tons per day. The site is a Dairy plant, and their products cover a variety of pure milk. The manufacturing process mainly includes sterilizing, filling, packing.

The site used the water by the municipal water for domestic and production from the local municipal water company (Shangzhi Fuyuan Water Supply Co., Ltd) and its ultimate water source is Xingfugou Reservior. The water usage process mainly includes production water and production auxiliary facilities (such as soft water systems, waste gas scrubbers, etc.), and living (such as in offices, canteens, etc.).

The site has 12 cooling towers, including 2 air-cooled cooling towers. Currently two fire water tanks in the site, with a total volume of 1,200 m3. The daily water storage capacity of each tank is approximately 80% of its total volume. The total water storage capacity of the entire site is 2,240 m3, and the daily water level remains unchanged.

The wastewater is treated by onsite wastewater treatment plant discharged into municipal WWTP (Shangzhi Longjiang Environmental Protection Water Affairs Co., Ltd.) and discharged to Wuzhu River, then finally discharged into the Mayi River. The rainwater is discharged into the municipal rainwater pipeline and then flows to Shuiquliu River and finally flows into the Mayi River.

Summary of Shared Water Challenges

Summary of Shared Water Challenges

The site identifies 4 shared challenges in the catchment, and addressed initiatives are also established.

The share challenges included:

1. Significant impact of extreme weather, and increased risks of rainstorm and floods. (High)
2. The water ecology is fragile and the problem of water environmental pollution is severe. (High)
3.Shortage of regional water resources, obvious contradiction between supply and demand for water resources. (Medium)
4. Water-related infrastructure and management capability is insufficient in the catchment . (Medium)

0.0.1	Water Source & Discharge Locations
0.01	*Have any water source or discharge locations been visited during the audit, if so, which and where? If none were visited, please provide justification.* — No
Comment	Due to the water sources and the final wastewater discharge points being controlled by water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure, which are located at a considerable distance from the site, and constrained by the audit schedule, the audit team is unable to visit these external areas.

1	STEP 1: GATHER AND UNDERSTAND	
1.1	*Gather information to define the site's physical scope for water stewardship purposes, including: its operational boundaries; the water sources from which the site draws; the locations to which the site returns its discharges; and the catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and upon which it is reliant.*	
1.1.1	*The physical scope of the site shall be mapped, considering the regulatory landscape and zone of stakeholder interests, including:* *- Site boundaries;* *- Water-related infrastructure, including piping network, owned or managed by the site or its parent organization;* *- Any water sources providing water to the site that are owned or managed by the site or its parent organization;* *- Water service provider (if applicable) and its ultimate water source;* *- Discharge points and waste water service provider (if applicable) and ultimate receiving water body or bodies;* *- Catchment(s) that the site affect(s) and is reliant upon for water.*	✓ Yes
Comment	The site draws a site boundary map, which identifies the site boundary information and the layout within the site. The site also collects information on the destination of its wastewater discharge, the location of the final receiving water body, the location of water service providers, and their water sources. The site has developed a site and catchment background report. In this report, it contains the following content: • Map of site boundaries with the source of water supply and discharge points of wastewater and rainwater. • Map of water-related infrastructures at the site such as pipeline, and wastewater treatment plant. • Map of the water plant (Shangzhi City Fuyuan Water Supply Co., Ltd.) and its ultimate water source (Xingfugou Reservoir), municipal WWTP (Shangzhi Longjiang Environmental Water Affairs Co., Ltd.) and its ultimate receiving water body (Wuzhu River). • Map of the catchment that the site affects and is reliant upon for water.	
1.2	*Understand relevant stakeholders, their water related challenges, and the site's ability to influence beyond its boundaries.*	
1.2.1	*Stakeholders and their water-related challenges shall be identified. The process used for stakeholder identification shall be identified. This process shall:* *- Inclusively cover all relevant stakeholder groups including vulnerable, women, minority, and Indigenous people;* *- Consider the physical scope identified, including stakeholders, representative of the site's ultimate water source and ultimate receiving water body or bodies;* *- Provide evidence of stakeholder consultation on water-related interests and challenges;* *- Note that the ability and/or willingness of stakeholders to participate may vary across the relevant stakeholder groups;* *- Identify the degree of stakeholder engagement based on their level of interest and influence.*	✓ Yes

Comment

The site has developed an analysis table of stakeholders and has established diversified communication channels with different stakeholders, such as phone calls, e-mails, meetings, WeChat, questionnaires, visits, etc.
The site identifies and confirms the perspectives of different types of stakeholders on water-related interests and challenges through stakeholder questionnaires, face to face communication.
Based on the summary and analysis of the stakeholder questionnaires, the site identified the degree of stakeholder engagement according to their level of interest and influence.

1.2.2 *Current and potential degree of influence between site and stakeholder shall be identified, within the catchment and considering the site's ultimate water source and ultimate receiving water body for wastewater.*

Yes

Comment

The site has developed an analysis table of stakeholders, and the degree of influence between the site and stakeholders has been identified for each stakeholder.

1.3 *Gather water-related data for the site, including: water balance; water quality, Important Water-Related Areas, water governance, WASH; water-related costs, revenues, and shared value creation.*

1.3.1 *Existing water-related incident response plans shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

The site has developed a series of water-related incident response plans that include multiple scenarios. Such as:
1. Comprehensive emergency plan for sudden environmental incidents, which identifies the response process for emergency situations related to environmental pollution, including topics such as wastewater, chemicals, hazardous waste, air emissions, etc. The plan has registered with Harbin City Shangzhi Ecological Environment Bureau, No.230183-2025-0076L.
2. Emergency plan for severe weather, identifying response processes for natural disasters such as high temperatures, typhoons, heavy rain, floods, winter low temperatures with rain, snow, ice;
3. Emergency plan related to water supply;
4. Emergency plan for drinking water poisoning accident;
5. Emergency Plan for Wastewater Treatment Station.
The site prepares an emergency drill plan every year, which includes all the drills planned for the year (including water-related emergency drills). The drill topics, participants, drill time, and other details are defined.

1.3.2 *Site water balance, including inflows, losses, storage, and outflows shall be identified and mapped*

Obs.

Comment

The has recorded the income and input and output data via meter reading, evaporated water and loss water via estimation or calculation, and developed a water balance map for each zone based on the data. The water inflows, losses, reuses, and outflows were identified and mapped. The site tracks the readings of each water meter and analyze water consumption and trends on a monthly basis. The annual variance in water usage rates was quantified. The annual variance in 2024 was 4.96%.

1.3.3 *Site water balance, inflows, losses, storage, and outflows, including indication of annual variance in water usage rates, shall be quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water balance for people or environment, an indication of annual high and low variances shall be quantified.*

Obs.

Comment

The has recorded the income and input and output data via meter reading, evaporated water and loss water via estimation or calculation at monthly basis. Therefore, the annual variance could be identified as well.

1.3.4	*Water quality of the site's water source(s), provided waters, effluent and receiving water bodies shall be quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water quality status for people or environment, an indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, high and low variances shall be quantified.*	Yes
Comment	The site has developed a water quality monitoring inventory, which includes monitoring requirements for sewage, incoming water, drinking water, and pure water, including monitoring points, monitoring methods, pollutant names, monitoring frequency, and control standards. For example: - Domestic wastewater and industrial wastewater: • According to the requirements of the wastewater discharge permit, the site entrusts a third-party laboratory to test the discharged wastewater monthly • The site has installed online monitoring facilities at the wastewater discharge outlet to monitor pH, COD, ammonia nitrogen and TN in real-time - Rainwater: • The site entrusts a third-party laboratory to test the water quality of rainwater outlets quarterly. - Drinking water • The site provided the purified water for employees as drinking water. The purified water is tested by internal laboratory every month, and by external qualified laboratory once a year. • Purified water is used in the production process of the site. The site carries out RO purification treatment for municipal water. The site entrusts a qualified laboratory to test the purified water yearly. The conductivity, pH, microbial counts, residual chlorine and nitrite of the purified water is monitored in real time internally to ensure that the water quality meets its process requirements. - Environmental water quality • Shuiquliu River is next to the site's WWTP and is also the final receiving water bodies for rainwater. The site entrusts a third-party laboratory to test the water quality of the river once a year since 2025. The sampling point is located at about 500 meters upstream of the onsite WWTP. - The site obtained the data includes the water quality of the water source, the final discharged water body, the water from municipal water plant on the government website. The data were published monthly.	
1.3.5	*Potential sources of pollution shall be identified and if applicable, mapped, including chemicals used or stored on site.*	Yes
Comment	The site has identified potential sources of pollution such as chemical storage and usage, wastewater tanks, storage of hazardous waste, and milk collection area and relevant measures to prevent and control contamination have been taken including strengthening management, establishment of secondary containment, and emergency response. In addition, the site has mapped the identified potential sources of pollution.	
1.3.6	*On-site Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified and mapped, including a description of their status including Indigenous cultural values.*	Yes
Comment	As per the site tour, document review, and interview, no onsite IWRA is within the site.	
1.3.7	*Annual water-related costs, revenues, and a description or quantification of the social, cultural, environmental, or economic water-related value generated by the site shall be identified and used to inform the evaluation of the plan in 4.1.2.*	Yes

Comment	The water-related costs sheet was provided for review, including: 1. Water supply costs 2. Cost of wastewater discharge rights 3. Cost of Water/Wastewater Treatment (including electricity of pumps, consumables, depreciation and maintenance of facilities, etc.) 4. Cost of steam generation 4. Water/wastewater/rainwater quality testing, peripheral water testing. Operation and maintenance of waste online testing facilities 5. Environmental training, frugal project investment, stakeholders' collaboration 6. AWS related expenses The water-related revenues included: Income from frugal projects and the social, cultural, environmental, and economic water-related value generated by the site.	
1.3.8	*Levels of access and adequacy of WASH at the site shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The site installs 3 water purification facilities in workshops and office areas, providing employees with free drinking water. The water purification facilities were regularly maintained. The site also provides sufficient toilets to workers, and regular cleaning was conducted. Necessary equipment like handwash and tissue were also provided. The site performed the assessment of the WASH level as per WBCSD. The result is satisfied.	
1.4	*Gather data on the site's indirect water use, including: its primary inputs; the water use embedded in the production of those primary inputs the status of the waters at the origin of the inputs (where they can be identified); and water used in out-sourced water-related services.*	
1.4.1	*The embedded water use of primary inputs, including quantity, quality and level of water risk within the site's catchment, shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The site screened and identified the all 6 milk suppliers and suppliers whose procurement costs account for more than 5% (10 suppliers included), and then sent the questionnaires to investigate their indirect water consumption (A total of 16 supplier provided feedback). Through the investigation, the site collected water consumption information from suppliers. Moreover, the site also evaluates the risk of indirect water based on the supplier's water usage, water source, wastewater quality, environmental violation records, WRI water risk screening results, etc.	
1.4.2	*The embedded water use of outsourced services shall be identified, and where those services originate within the site's catchment, quantified.*	No
Comment	A list of outsourced services within the site's catchment has been established by the site. The outsourced services mainly include the treatment and disposal of solid waste and hazardous waste. ***Finding No: TNR-023288***	
1.4.3	*Advanced Indicator* *The embedded water use of primary inputs in catchment(s) of origin shall be quantified.*	No
Comment	The site screened and identified total 6 milk suppliers and suppliers whose procurement costs account for more than 5% (totally 16 suppliers were included), and through the investigation questionnaires. ***Finding No: TNR-023287***	
1.5	*Gather water-related data for the catchment, including water governance, water balance, water quality, Important Water-Related Areas, infrastructure, and WASH*	

1.5.1 *Water governance initiatives shall be identified, including catchment plan(s), water-related public policies, major publicly-led initiatives under way, and relevant goals to help inform site of possible opportunities for water stewardship collective action.*

Yes

Comment: Water governance initiatives were identified in the Catchment Background Survey Report by the site. The initiatives included national, provincial, and local levels, including the catchment development plan, industrial development plan, environmental and ecological conservation plan, etc.
As the water governance initiatives were issued and led by the government, the site mainly follow the government's requirement and cooperate with them.

1.5.2 *Applicable water-related legal and regulatory requirements shall be identified, including legally-defined and/or stakeholder-verified customary water rights.*

Yes

Comment: Applicable water-related legal and regulatory requirements were collected and listed. The site checks and updates the list annually.

1.5.3 *The catchment water-balance, and where applicable, scarcity, shall be quantified, including indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, variance.*

Yes

Comment: The Catchment Background Survey Report provides a detailed analysis of the water balance for Songhua River catchment in Heilongjiang Province and Harbin City. The water balance in the catchment is analyzed based on the precipitation (m3), surface water resources (m3), groundwater resources(m3), total water resources (m3), surface water supply (m3), groundwater supply (m3), total water supply (m3), water consumption(m3), utilization rate of water resources development and the annual differences and trends. All the data is collected from government websites and published reports.
According to the 'Heilongjiang Water Resources Bulletin (2023)', the total water resources of Songhua River in Heilongjiang Province in 2023 were 101.498 billion cubic meters. The total water supply were 28.892 billion cubic meters, among them, the surface water resources are 18.638 billion cubic meters, and the groundwater resources are 9.948 billion cubic meters. Based on the total inflow of water in that year, the development and utilization rate of water resources in the Songhua River is less than 30%, which has not reached the internationally recognized warning line level (40%).
According to the 'Harbin Water Resources Bulletin (2023)', the total water resources in Harbin in 2023 were 19.133 billion cubic meters. The total water supply were 5.915 billion cubic meters, among them, the surface water resources are 4.616 billion cubic meters, and the groundwater resources are 1.135 billion cubic meters. The annual precipitation in the 4 districts and 9 counties (cities) of Harbin City in 2023 ranged from 600.7 to 1026.4 mm. Among them, Shangzhi City had the highest annual precipitation, reaching 1026.4 mm, equivalent to 7.701 billion cubic meters of water.The smallest is Hulan District, with an annual precipitation depth of 600.7mm, equivalent to a water volume of 1.32 billion cubic meters.Compared with the previous year, the change range was between -6.7% and 29.3%. Among them, Yanshou County and Mulan County decreased by 0.1% to 6.7%. Mulan County had the largest decrease, which was 6.7%.The increase in other regions ranged from 4.0 to 29.3%, with Wuchang City experiencing the largest increase of 29.3%.Compared with the multi-year average, the variation range is between -0.8% and 55.6%. Among them, Mulan County decreased by 0.8%, while other regions increased by 3.4 to 55.6%. The largest increase was in Wuchang City, which rose by 55.6%.
According to the WWF Water Depletion map, the water depletion risk of the catchment where the site is located is very low.

1.5.4 *Water quality, including physical, chemical, and biological status, of the catchment shall be identified, and where possible, quantified. Where there is a water-related challenge that would be a threat to good water quality status for people or environment, an indication of annual, and where appropriate, seasonal, high and low variances shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

The Catchment Background Survey Report provides a detailed analysis of water quality for the catchment. The site obtained the relate information from the government website. (Mainly from the Environmental and Ecological Bureau).
The data includes the water quality of the water source, the final discharged water body, and the water from the municipal water plant.
The data will be published monthly or annually, therefore, the annual variances could be identified.
According to the '2024 Annual Ecological Environment Status Bulletin of Heilongjiang Province', in 2024, the main stream and 51 tributaries of the Songhua River system will have a total of 133 sections.The water quality is good. Among them, 14.3% are of Class II water quality, 60.9% are of Class III water quality, 16.5% are of Class I water quality, 6.8% are of Class V water quality, 1.5% are of water quality worse than Class V, and the proportion of water quality ranging from Class I to Class III is 75.2%.Compared with the same period of the previous year, the proportion of water quality of grades I to III increased by 1.5 percentage points, while the proportion of water quality worse than Grade V remained unchanged.
The water quality of 15 national and provincial controlled sections along the main stream of the Songhua River was excellent, among which 100% were of Class III water quality, and there were no sections with water quality worse than Class V.Compared with the same period of the previous year, the proportion of water quality grades I to III increased by 6.7 percentage points, and there were no sections with water quality worse than Grade V. The main pollution indicators of concern were permanganate index, ammonia nitrogen, chemical oxygen demand and total phosphorus.The average concentration of permanganate index was 4.7mg/L, remaining unchanged compared with the same period last year.The average concentration of ammonia nitrogen was 0.25mg, remaining unchanged compared with the same period last year.The average concentration of chemical oxygen demand was 16.3mg, a year-on-year decrease of 3.6%.The average concentration of total phosphorus was 0.101mg, up by 5.2% year-on-year.
A total of 25 sections in Harbin City participated in the national assessment and calculation. The proportion of water quality grades I to III was 76.0%, and there were no sections with water quality worse than Grade V.Compared with the same period of the previous year, the proportion of water quality grades I to III decreased by 12.0 percentage points. There were no sections with water quality worse than Grade V. The water quality of Mopanshan Reservoir was considered good.
The water volume compliance rate of drinking water sources in Harbin City is 100%.

1.5.5 *Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified, and where appropriate, mapped,and their status assessed including any threats to people or the natural environment, using scientific information and through stakeholder engagement.*

Yes

Comment

The Catchment Background Survey Report lists the Important Water-Related Areas of the catchment and assessed their status.
The Important Water-Related Areas are collected from government-published documents, including 'Annual Ecological Environment Status Bulletin of Heilongjiang Province', 'Environmental control unit map of Harbin City', 'Distribution map of environmental control units in Heilongjiang Province', and also collected information from government-published news, such as Opinions of the Harbin Municipal People's Government on Implementing the 'Three Lines and One List" Ecological Environment Zoning Control'.

1.5.6 *Existing and planned water-related infrastructure shall be identified, including condition and potential exposure to extreme events.*

No

Comment

The Catchment Background Survey Report lists the water-related infrastructure that the site used in current, including water supply and wastewater treatment.
According to the "2024 Urban Construction Statistical Yearbook", the water supply coverage rate of Shangzhi City was 98.14%, the sewage treatment rate was 95.08%, the centralized treatment rate of the sewage treatment plant is 95.08%.

Finding No: TNR-023289

1.5.7 *The adequacy of available WASH services within the catchment shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment	The site obtained the WASH status in Shangzhi City and Harbin City from the Urban Statistical Yearbook for 2024, including data on environmental sanitation, comprehensive production capacity of tap water, total water supply, wastewater treatment rate, and other relevant metrics. The site also identified the WASH status at the catchment level through Heilongjiang Statistical Yearbook 2023. Overall, the WASH services within the catchment area are in good condition.	
1.5.8	*Advanced Indicator* *Efforts by the site to support and undertake catchment level water-related data collection shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The sites conduct water quality testing on Shuiquliu River which near the wastewater treatment plant of the site and also the discharged water body of rainwater (one sample point). The sites entrust third-party laboratories for testing in December 2025. The testing standards are based on the Surface Water Environmental Quality Standard GB3838-2002, and the testing parameters includes: pH, COD, BOD5, NH3-N, TN, TP and DO. The site shares the test results with the local Ecological and Environmenta Bureau and Water Conservancy Bureau.	
1.5.9	*Advanced Indicator* *The adequacy of WASH provision within the catchments of origin of primary inputs shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The site has identified the adequacy of WASH provision within the catchments of origin of primary inputs including the water coverage rate, the coverage of wastewater treatment coverage rate, centralized treatment rate of wastewater treatment plants and the rate of security disposal of municipal solid waste.	
1.6	*Understand current and future shared water challenges in the catchment, by linking the water challenges identified by stakeholders with the site's water challenges.*	
1.6.1	*Shared water challenges shall be identified and prioritized from the information gathered.*	Obs.
Comment	The site identifies 4 shared challenges in the catchment, and addressed initiatives are also established. The share challenges included: 1. Significant impact of extreme weather, and increased risks of rainstorm and floods. (High) 2. The water ecology is fragile and the problem of water environmental pollution is severe. (High) 3.Shortage of regional water resources, obvious contradiction between supply and demand for water resources. (Medium) 4. Water-related infrastructure and management capability is insufficient in the catchment. (Medium) Meanwhile, based on the analysis of relevance/rationale for stakeholders and relevance/rational for the site, the site has prioritized the shared challenges. The level of risk is determined by attention, impact, and outcome.	
1.6.2	*Initiatives to address shared water challenges shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	In response to the aforementioned shared water challenges, the site has identified measures to address them, including public initiatives and the site's action plan.	
1.6.3	*Advanced Indicator* *Future water issues shall be identified, including anticipated impacts and trends*	Yes

Comment	The site analyzed the trends in population changes, water source and climate changes within the catchment by querying reports published by government or academic institutions. And based on research reports and WWF, predictions were made for future water issues in the catchment. Overall, by 2030, the shortage of water resources in the catchment can gradually intensify to medium risk, and the water quality problem in the catchment will raised to extreme risk.	
1.6.4	*Advanced Indicator* *Potential water-related social impacts from the site shall be identified, resulting in a social impact assessment with a particular focus on water.*	Yes
Comment	The site conducted a focused social impact assessment on site-related water issues and compiled a social impact assessment report, which mainly covers the following contents: 1. Description of the current situation related to site water 2. Water use and drainage patterns of the site a. Basic situation of local water resources b. Local socio-economic conditions and major water-consuming industries c. Water resource stress and other risks 3. Identification and analysis of social impacts a. Water consumption and its impact on water resource availability b. Water quality and health impact c. Impact on livelihoods and socio-economic development d. Ecosystem impact e. Impact on occupational health and safety of employees 4. Stakeholder identification 5. Impact evaluation 6. Mitigation and improvement measures 7. Monitoring and evaluation	
1.7	*Understand the site's water risks and opportunities: Assess and prioritize the water risks and opportunities affecting the site based upon the status of the site, existing risk management plans and/or the issues and future risk trends identified in 1.6.*	
1.7.1	*Water risks faced by the site shall be identified, and prioritized, including likelihood and severity of impact within a given timeframe, potential costs and business impact.*	Yes
Comment	The site identified its water risks and summarized them in a spreadsheet. They categorized the water risk into physical risk, regulatory risk, and reputation risk. In the spreadsheet that lists the water risks faced by the site, the site scored the frequency of the risk and severity of the impact, and then multiplied the two scores to evaluate the level of the risk. The potential costs, business impact, and control measures are also included in the spreadsheet.	
1.7.2	*Water-related opportunities shall be identified, including how the site may participate, assessment and prioritization of potential savings, and business opportunities.*	Yes
Comment	The site has identified water-related opportunities, including how the site may participate, assessment and prioritization of potential savings, and business opportunities. The site scored the possibility of realization and potential value, and then multiplied the two scores to evaluate the level of the opportunities.	
1.8	*Understand best practice towards achieving AWS outcomes: Determining sectoral best practices having a local/catchment, regional, or national relevance.*	
1.8.1	*Relevant catchment best practice for water governance shall be identified.*	Yes

Comment

The site has identified relevant catchment best practices for water governance including:
• Regular public disclosure of water stewardship information (including water stewardship performance and plan);
• Conduct training for suppliers both within and outside the catchment, sharing and promoting water-saving cases;
• Working with stakeholders (including supporting institutions such as governments) to promote the concept of sustainable water management;
• Implement AWS management on the site and carry out AWS certification.

1.8.2 *Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for water balance (either through water efficiency or less total water use) shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

The site has identified relevant sector and/or catchment best practices for water balance including:
• The water consumption per unit product has reached the industry water quota within the catchment as published by the official authoritie, and decreased year by year. The target of water consumption per unit in 2025 (m3/ ton): 2.7;
• Establish or carry out water-saving management system, management institutions, water supply and drainage facilities and water facilities management, water metering management, water balance, water-saving technology transformation and investment, water-saving publicity, etc.
• Establish a water management system by using the digital water meter network to monitor the water consumption and trends of various departments and production lines in real time.

1.8.3 *Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for water quality shall be identified, including rationale for data source.*

Yes

Comment

The site has identified relevant sector and/or catchment best practices for water quality, such as:
• Establishing stricter internal wastewater discharge standards than the requirements of the pollution discharge permit: The relationship between the company's internal water quality control standards and the discharge permit limits is as follows:
COD: Internal control target, 400mg/L; Permitted limit, 500mg/L
BOD: Internal control target, 240mg/L; Permitted limit, 300mg/L
SS: Internal control target, 320mg/L; Permitted limit, 400mg/L
animal and vegetable oils: Internal control target, 80mg/L; Permitted limit, 100mg/L
• Annual COD and NH3-N emission volume is sistricter than the requirements of pollution discharge permit.
• Encourage the site to promote clean production, take pollution prevention measures, improve material utilization, cleaning efficiency, and reduce water pollutants and waste water production;
• Implement environmental and safety management measures: establish environmental and safety management system; Implement pollution control facilities management measures.

1.8.4 *Relevant catchment best practice for site maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

The site has identified best practices related to Important Water Related Areas (IWRA). Such as:
• Conduct information collection of IWRA;
• Carry out improvement actions in IWRA, such as cleaning beach activity, publicity on the protection of important water.

1.8.5 *Relevant sector and/or catchment best practice for site provision of equitable and adequate WASH services shall be identified.*

Yes

Comment

The site has identified relevant sector and/or catchment best practices for site provision of equitable and adequate WASH services including:
• In accordance with WBCSD guidelines, regularly clean the water supply system. The assessment score in WBCSD self-assessment tool is not less than 1.8;
• The voluntary clause of the GBZ 1-2010 Hygienic standards for the design of industrial enterprises.

2	STEP 2: COMMIT & PLAN - Commit to be a responsible water steward and develop a Water Stewardship Plan	
2.1	*Commit to water stewardship by having the senior-most manager in charge of water at the site, or if necessary, a suitable individual within the organization head office, sign and publicly disclose a commitment to water stewardship, the implementation of the AWS Standard and achieving its five outcomes, and the allocation of required resources.*	
2.1.1	*A signed and publicly disclosed site statement OR organizational document shall be identified. The statement or document shall include the following commitments:* *- That the site will implement and disclose progress on water stewardship program(s) to achieve improvements in AWS water stewardship outcomes* *- That the site implementation will be aligned to and in support of existing catchment sustainability plans* *- That the site's stakeholders will be engaged in an open and transparent way* *- That the site will allocate resources to implement the Standard.*	✓ Yes
Comment	A water stewardship commitment to follow all the AWS core criteria has been signed by the top manager. The commitment has been displayed on Mengniu group's website. https://www.mengniu.com.cn/contact/detail/25218.html	
2.1.2	*Advanced Indicator* *A statement that explicitly covers all requirements set out in Indicator 2.1.1 and is signed by the organization's senior-most executive or governance body and publicly disclosed shall be identified.*	✓ Yes
Comment	A water stewardship commitment to follow all the AWS core criteria has been signed by the top manager. The commitment has been displayed on Mengniu group's website. https://www.mengniu.com.cn/contact/detail/25218.html	
2.2	*Develop and document a process to achieve and maintain legal and regulatory compliance.*	
2.2.1	*The system to maintain compliance obligations for water and wastewater management shall be identified, including:* *- Identification of responsible persons/positions within facility organizational structure* *- Process for submissions to regulatory agencies.*	✓ Yes
Comment	The site disclosed the information of its water management organizational structure and members of the compliance responsible team on its Mengniu group's website. The site has prepared its own sustainable water stewardship operation procedure, SS\ZA-9.4.7-2-2025-0, which defines the water management responsibilities of each department. The site has also established a procedure to ensure the operation meet the provisions of relevant laws, regulations and other requirements.	
2.3	*Create a water stewardship strategy and plan including addressing risks (to and from the site), shared catchment water challenges, and opportunities.*	
2.3.1	*A water stewardship strategy shall be identified that defines the overarching mission, vision, and goals of the organization towards good water stewardship in line with this AWS Standard.*	✓ Yes

Comment

Mengniu Group has developed a water stewardship strategy. The strategy expounds the site's long-term plan for water stewardship in terms of standardized management, corporate social responsibility and implementation of best practices.
• Fully implement the national principle of "using water availability to determine city size, land use, population, and production capacity." With "strengthening management foundations and promoting diverse technologies" as levers, manage water across its entire life cycle—from intake and use to conservation.
• Center on the eight water-saving measures of 3U Water Strategy, embed lean-management methodologies into water governance, continuously explore and adopt new technologies, methods and processes, identify and evaluate every opportunity to raise water-use efficiency, and deploy best-available technologies and practices across all production and operating activities to achieve enduring water conservation.
• Set ambitious Group-wide water-use targets and track water-management performance over the long term through a robust set of indicators. 2030 Goals: Increase water-recycling rate by 5 % versus 2023 and Reduce water intake per ton of product by 10 % versus 2023.
• Deliver regular training for all employees to raise water-management awareness and sharpen practical skills, empowering every employee to master targeted water-saving techniques and to devise innovative conservation solutions in their day-to-day work.
• Commit to providing safe, well-managed water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities at all workplaces, ensuring reliable access to safe drinking water and adequate personal-hygiene conditions for every employee.
• Enhances the transparency of its sustainable water management by regularly disclosing progress in public reports. Actively engage external stakeholders to keep our programs at the forefront of the industry and to ensure this Policy is reviewed and updated in a timely manner.
The site develops annually Water Stewardship Plan rely on the group's water management strategy.

2.3.2

A water stewardship plan shall be identified, including for each target:
- How it will be measured and monitored
- Actions to achieve and maintain (or exceed) it
- Planned timeframes to achieve it
- Financial budgets allocated for actions
- Positions of persons responsible for actions and achieving targets
- Where available, note the link between each target and the achievement of best practice to help address shared water challenges and the AWS outcomes.

Yes

Comment

The site has developed a Water Stewardship Plan (Year 2025), which specifies targets, required actions, measurement, status, effectiveness evaluation, accountable and deadline, etc.
The Water Stewardship Plan is associated with five main outcomes of AWS, including good water governance, sustainable water balance, good water quality status, IWRA and WASH, such as:
• Prepare and regularly update the sustainable water stewardship process to standardize the water management process Invite external experts to conduct sustainable water management training for their AWS promotion team.
• The water balance target of the site in 2025 is to use no more than 2.8 m^3 of water per ton of dairy products, and with 2024 as the baseline year, the water consumption per ton of dairy products will decrease by 1.4%.
• The quality of the discharged wastewater will 100% meet the internal control requirements of the site, and the internal control indicators of the wastewater will be lower than the requirements of the wastewater discharge permit.
• By 2025, the total emissions of COD and ammonia nitrogen pollutants will be reduced by 3.4% and 3.6% respectively compared with 2024.
• The site will entrust a third-party testing agency to conduct regular water quality tests on the nearby Shuiquliu River every year.
• Use WBCSD to evaluate the WASH of the site and reach 1.8.

2.3.3	*Advanced Indicator* *The site's partnership/water stewardship activities with other sites within the same catchment (which may or may not be under the same organisational ownership) shall be identified and described.*	Yes
Comment	The site's water stewardship activities with other sites within the same catchment are identified: • On March 20, 2025, the site organized a World Water Day event in partnership with the local Water Authority and a nearby primary school. The activities, themed "Campus Science Lecture, Exploring Milk & Water, Appreciating Water Conservancy, and the Glacier Action," included a site visit to the local water treatment plant to learn about water treatment processes. • On March 17, 2025, the site joined forces with the local Forest Fire and Rescue Brigade to launch the "Shizuishan Glacier Protection Action." Volunteers collected waste from the snow and ice to prevent pollution, protect local water resources and ecological balance, and raise public environmental awareness. • On September 20, 2025, the site collaborated with its suppliers to conduct a river patrol and shoreline cleanup along the Ant River, removing waste from the riverbanks.	
2.3.4	*Advanced Indicator* *The site's partnership/water stewardship activities with other sites in another catchment(s) (either under same corporate structure or with another corporate site) shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	On December 8, 2025, the site organized a sharing seminar on sustainable water stewardship to share its experience in carrying out AWS with brother company (Wuhan site and Tangshan site) in another catchment and promoted them to conduct water protection activity. On December 8, 2025, the Group company organized Supplier Meetings, and the site shared the AWS management standards to their suppliers (including suppliers in same catchment and in another catchment).	
2.3.5	*Advanced Indicator* *Stakeholder consensus shall be sought on the site's water stewardship plan. Consensus should be achieved on at least one target. A list of targets that have consensus and in which stakeholders are involved shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The site communicated its Water Stewardship Plan with key stakeholders through face to face, interviews, and questionnaires, including water related infrastructure, surrounding residents, surrounding enterprises, surrounding schools, and local governments, etc. The site has communicated its Water Stewardship Plan with stakeholders and obtained their feedback to seek consensus on the Water Stewardship Plan for the site. Consensus are achieved on multiple target, For example: The water balance target of the site in 2025 is to use no more than 2.8 m^3 of water per ton of dairy products, and with 2024 as the baseline year, the water consumption per ton of dairy products will decrease by 1.4%.	
2.4	*Demonstrate the site's responsiveness and resilience to respond to water risks*	
2.4.1	*A plan to mitigate or adapt to identified water risks developed in co-ordination with relevant public-sector and infrastructure agencies shall be identified.*	Yes

Comment	The site has identified its water risks covering water governance, sustainable water balance and water quality. Based on risk analysis, the site has prioritized its water risks according to potential impact, likelihood within a given time and difficulty of detection. Meanwhile, corresponding response strategies to mitigate water risks are developed, such as: • The emergency plan for sudden environmental events has been formulated, including special emergency plans for chemical and hazardous waste leakage and its disposal of cleaning waste water, waste water pipeline leakage, etc., and has been registered with local ecological environment bureau, No.: 230183-2025-00762. • Formulate the "Water supply system fault handling procedure", No.: S\CS039-9.1.2-1-2025-0, and signed a municipal water supply contract with the water supply infrastructure, which includes measures for responding to emergencies in water supply and pipeline networks.

2.4.2 *Advanced Indicator*

A plan to mitigate or adapt to water risks associated with climate change projections developed in co-ordination with relevant public-sector and infrastructure agencies shall be identified.

Yes

Comment	By searching literature on climate change prediction both inside and outside the catchment, the site identified the seasonal extreme weather floods may become the water risks associated with climate change. The site has communicated with the Shangzhi Public Security Bureau Fire Brigade, Shangzhi Emergency Management Bureau, and Shangzhi People's Hospital regarding cooperation on emergency response to extreme weather events, and signed the Emergency Rescue Mutual Assistance Agreement.

3	STEP 3: IMPLEMENT - Implement the site's stewardship plan and improve impacts	
3.1	*Implement plan to participate positively in catchment governance.*	
3.1.1	*Evidence that the site has supported good catchment governance shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	1. The site actively cooperates with the government supervision department to conduct supervisory inspections and visits. 2. The site commissions a third-party testing agency to conduct regular water quality tests on the nearby Shuiquliu River every year. 3. On World Environment Day, June 5th every year, the site joined forces with the Shangzhi Ecological Environment Bureau to launch a water conservation and environmental protection campaign in the city center. The initiative called on citizens to take action to save water and protect the environment, thereby strengthening public awareness of ecological conservation. 4. The site shared their AWS system and Water Stewardship Plan with local government, such as Shangzhi Municipal Ecological Environment Bureau and water supply corporation.	
3.1.2	*Measures identified to respect the water rights of others including Indigenous peoples, that are not part of 3.2 shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	The water rights are respected under legal and regulatory mechanisms, and there is no indigenous people in the catchment area.	
3.2	*Implement system to comply with water-related legal and regulatory requirements and respect water rights.*	
3.2.1	*A process to verify full legal and regulatory compliance shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	The site has established a procedure to ensure the operation of the site meet the provisions of relevant laws, regulations and other requirements. The site timely obtains updated information on laws and regulations and conducts compliance evaluation on laws and regulations every year and keeps records. According to IPE and monitoring reports, the facility operated in accordance with laws and regulations.	
3.2.2	*Where water rights are part of legal and regulatory requirements, measures identified to respect the water rights of others including Indigenous peoples, shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	Water rights are not part of legal and regulatory requirements. The site will comply with water-related legal and regulatory requirements and respect water rights.	
3.3	*Implement plan to achieve site water balance targets.*	
3.3.1	*Status of progress towards meeting water balance targets set in the water stewardship plan shall be identified.*	Yes

Comment	The site has developed a Water Stewardship Plan (Year 2025) improvement action list, which specifies targets, required actions, measurement, status, effectiveness evaluation, and responsible department, etc. The water balance target of the site in 2025 is to use no more than 2.8 m³ of water per ton of dairy products, and with 2024 as the baseline year, the water consumption per ton of dairy products will decrease by 1.4%, tracks the progress of its water usage target on a monthly basis, and the water consumption will show a continuous downward trend. Based on the water balance goal of the site in 2025, the site has formulated a water management action plan, and a series of improvement measures have been proposed and implemented, such as: Pasteurization machine hibernation reduction ice water improvement project: When the pasteurizer is in sleep mode, the ice water valve opens to exchange heat with the sterile water of the pasteurizer itself, resulting in the waste of ice water. By modifying the single-machine program of the pasteurizer, the ice water valve can be automatically closed during sleep mode. After the ice water valve is closed, the consumption of ice water is saved, with 51.68 tons of ice water saved daily and 18,900 tons of ice water saved annually. The cooling water for the gripper of the filling machine in the site workshop is always on during production, and excessive consumption has led to water waste. The filling machine has been improved to be set to start at regular intervals. When it is in production operation, it starts for 15 seconds every 300 seconds, reducing water consumption. By 2025, approximately 207 tons of water will be saved.	
3.3.2	*Where water scarcity is a shared water challenge, annual targets to improve the site's water use efficiency, or if practical and applicable, reduce volumetric total use shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	Due to the uncertainty of output, it is not appropriate for the site to set the target of reducing total water consumption. However, the site sets the target of water consumption per unit product every year and decreases it year over year. The water balance target of the site in 2025 is to use no more than 2.8 m³ of water per ton of dairy products, and with 2024 as the baseline year, the water consumption per ton of dairy products will decrease by 1.4%, tracks the progress of its water usage target on a monthly basis, and the water consumption will show a continuous downward trend.	
3.3.3	*Legally-binding documentation, if applicable, for the re-allocation of water to social, cultural or environmental needs shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	No legally-binding documentation is issued by local government authorities to the site for the re-allocation of water to social, cultural or environmental needs.	
3.3.4	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *The total volume of water voluntarily re-allocated (from site water savings) for social, cultural and environmental needs shall be quantified.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	
3.4	*Implement plan to achieve site water quality targets*	
3.4.1	*Status of progress towards meeting water quality targets set in the water stewardship plan shall be identified.*	Yes

Comment	1. A series of water stewardship plans are implemented to achieve the site's water quality targets. 2. According to the water quality monitoring plan, the site entrusts a third-party laboratory to test its various water quality. According to the test report and analysis record provided by the site, the water quality is 100% in line with its control standard, and the COD, BOD5, SS and Petroleum indicators meet the internal control discharge standards. 3. The site has developed a management procedure for pollutant concentration in wastewater discharge and established internal control indicators that are stricter than the discharge permit. The specific details are as follows: Internal control index of discharged wastewater: COD 100 mg/L, BOD5 20 mg/L, SS 70 mg/L, Petroleum 20mg/L and achieving 100% of the internal control targets for 2025. 4. The site has set its total emission targets for COD and ammonia nitrogen pollutants for 2025 at 76 tons and 16 tons respectively, representing a reduction of 3.4% and 3.6% compared to the total discharge of 78.7 tons and 16.6 tons in 2024, with continuous implementation of control measures. 5. The acid and alkali solutions recovered from the cleaning and sterilization equipment in the workshop are filtered through acid-alkali ceramic membranes, stored in recycling tanks, and then reused for cleaning equipment at the car wash facility. The reduced concentration of the acid and alkali solutions after secondary recycling helps alleviate the treatment load on the wastewater treatment plant. 6. The site tracks the progress of its Water Stewardship targets regularly.	
3.4.2	*Where water quality is a shared water challenge, continual improvement to achieve best practice for the site's effluent shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.*	Yes
Comment	The site set a more stringent internal discharge standard. The site set a more stringent internal targets for total COD and ammonia nitrogen pollutant emissions, which will be reduced by 3.4% and 3.6% respectively compared with the total emissions of COD and ammonia nitrogen pollutants in 2024.	
3.5	*Implement plan to maintain or improve the site's and/or catchment's Important Water-Related Areas.*	
3.5.1	*Practices set in the water stewardship plan to maintain and/or enhance the site's Important Water-Related Areas shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	On March 20, 2025, the site organized a World Water Day event in partnership with the local Water Authority and a nearby primary school. The activities, themed "Campus Science Lecture, Exploring Milk & Water, Appreciating Water Conservancy, and the Glacier Action," included a site visit to the local water treatment plant to learn about water treatment processes. On March 17, 2025, the site joined forces with the local Forest Fire and Rescue Brigade to launch the "Shizuishan Glacier Protection Action." Volunteers collected waste from the snow and ice to prevent pollution, protect local water resources and ecological balance, and raise public environmental awareness. On September 20, 2025, the site collaborated with its suppliers to conduct a river patrol and shoreline cleanup along the Ant River, removing waste from the riverbanks. On World Environment Day, June 5th every year, the site joined forces with the Shangzhi Ecological Environment Bureau to launch a water conservation and environmental protection campaign in the city center. The initiative called on citizens to take action to save water and protect the environment, thereby strengthening public awareness of ecological conservation.	
3.5.2	*Advanced Indicator* *Evidence of completed restoration of non-functioning or severely degraded Important Water-Related Areas including where appropriate cultural values from a site-selected baseline date shall be identified. Restored areas may be outside of the site, but within the catchment.*	N/A
Comment	This indicator is not mandatory for gold level.	

3.5.3	*Advanced Indicator* *Evidence from a representative range of stakeholders showing consensus that the site is seen as positively contributing to the healthy status of Important Water-Related Areas in the catchment shall be identified.*	N/A
Comment	This indicator is not mandatory for gold level.	
3.6	*Implement plan to provide access to safe drinking water, effective sanitation, and protective hygiene (WASH) for all workers at all premises under the site's control.*	
3.6.1	*Evidence of the site's provision of adequate access to safe drinking water, effective sanitation, and protective hygiene (WASH) for all workers onsite shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.*	Yes
Comment	1. The WASH installations fully comply with the national "Hygienic Standards for the Design of Industrial Enterprises" (GBZ 1-2010). 2. The site conducts WBCSD self-assessment to evaluate the level of onsite WASH and the final result was 1.8. 3. The site carried out a questionnaire survey on employee satisfaction regarding drinking water, sanitation, and facilities. 4. The site conducts regular testing of drinking water and secondary water supply to ensure safe drinking water, and the report show the result is compliance. 5. Sanitation and hygiene installations are checked and cleaned daily, water purifiers are checked daily and maintained when needed.	
3.6.2	*Evidence that the site is not impinging on the human right to safe water and sanitation of communities through their operations, and that traditional access rights for indigenous and local communities are being respected, and that remedial actions are in place where this is not the case, and that these are effective.*	Yes
Comment	No evidence is showed that the site is impinging on the human right to safe water and sanitation of communities through their operations according to the interviews with the site's employees, local community and local government authorities.	
3.6.3	*Advanced Indicator* *A list of actions taken to support the provision to stakeholders in the catchment of access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene awareness shall be identified.*	N/A
Comment	This indicator is not mandatory for gold level.	
3.6.4	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator:* *In catchments where WASH has been identified as a shared water challenge, evidence of efforts taken with relevant public-sector agencies to share information and to advocate for change to address access to safe drinking water and sanitation shall be identified.*	N/A
Comment	This indicator is not mandatory for gold level.	
3.7	*Implement plan to maintain or improve indirect water use within the catchment:*	
3.7.1	*Evidence that indirect water use targets set in the water stewardship plan, as applicable, have been met shall be quantified.*	Yes

Comment	Indirect water use targets have been set in the water stewardship plan. 1. The site conducted a questionnaire survey among its 16 suppliers and analyzed their indirect water use based on the survey questionnaire. 2. The site conducts compliance screenings for 16 suppliers through the IPE platform (Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs). If suppliers are found to have environmental violations, the site requires them to follow up on the violations and disclose the rectification results. 3. In December 2025, the site organized a training session for 17 suppliers and service providers, introducing the AWS program and Share excellent water-saving cases.	
3.7.2	*Evidence of engagement with suppliers and service providers, as well as, when applicable, actions they have taken in the catchment as a result of the site's engagement related to indirect water use, shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	Indirect water use targets have been set in the water stewardship plan. 1. In December 2025, the site organized a training session for 17 suppliers and service providers, introducing the AWS program and Share excellent water-saving cases. 2. The site conducted a questionnaire survey on its existing suppliers (a total of 16) and analyzed their indirect water use based on the survey questionnaire. Based on the water risk assessment results of the suppliers, Select a supplier to promote water conservation actions. Specific project: Installed an automatic pressure controller and improved insulation on the supplier's boiler. After the renovation is completed,boiler water consumption in 2025 decreased by 12.6% compared to 2024.	
3.7.3	*Advanced Indicator* *Actions taken to address water related risks and challenges related to indirect water use outside the catchment shall be documented and evaluated.*	N/A
Comment	This indicator is not mandatory for gold level.	
3.8	*Implement plan to engage with and notify the owners of any shared water-related infrastructure of any concerns the site may have.*	
3.8.1	*Evidence of engagement, and the key messages relayed with confirmation of receipt, shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The site actively cooperates with the government supervision department to conduct supervisory inspections and visits. The site keeps close contact with local water-related infrastructure owners through many ways such as Wechat, phone call or Visits. The site regularly shares water quality inspection reports of the Shuiquliu River with Shangzhi Municipal Ecological Environment Bureau and sewage treatment plant.	
3.9	*Implement actions to achieve best practice towards AWS outcomes: continually improve towards achieving sectoral best practice having a local/catchment, regional, or national relevance.*	
3.9.1	*Actions towards achieving best practice, related to water governance, as applicable, shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	The site performed following action to achieve the best practice: 1. The site has developed its own sustainable water stewardship operation procedure, SS\ZA-9.4.7-2-2025-0, to standardize its water management activities. 2. The site has established a Water Stewardship Committee to coordinate its water management related affairs. An organization chart of the water stewardship management team is included in the water stewardship operation procedure of the site. Including the manager representative of the water stewardship, the responsible department and person. 3. The sites conducts stakeholder communication every year, understanding the issues of concern to stakeholders within the catchment through on-site visits, questionnaires, etc, and then formulates plans to take necessary actions together.	

3.9.2 *Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water balance shall be implemented.* Yes

Comment

The site has developed a Water Stewardship Plan (Year 2025), which specifies targets, required actions, measurement, status, effectiveness evaluation, accountable and deadline, etc.
The actions for improving water balance including:
1. Pasteurization machine hibernation reduction ice water improvement project: When the pasteurizer is in sleep mode, the ice water valve opens to exchange heat with the sterile water of the pasteurizer itself, resulting in the waste of ice water. By modifying the single-machine program of the pasteurizer, the ice water valve can be automatically closed during sleep mode. After the ice water valve is closed, the consumption of ice water is saved, with 51.68 tons of ice water saved daily and 18,900 tons of ice water saved annually.
2. The cooling water for the gripper of the filling machine in the site workshop is always on during production, and excessive consumption has led to water waste. The filling machine has been improved to be set to start at regular intervals. When it is in production operation, it starts for 15 seconds every 300 seconds, reducing water consumption. By 2025, approximately 207 tons of water will be saved.
3. Improvement in Reducing Cooling Water Consumption for Pumps in the Pretreatment Workshop: By optimizing the configuration of cooling pumps in the sterilizer and ingredient preparation areas, two pumps were placed in series to share a single cooling water circuit. Specifically, the outlet of the first pump is connected to the inlet of the second pump. Additionally, controllable couplings were installed to reduce the flow rate. This modification effectively lowered the consumption of softened water, resulting in daily savings of approximately 28.8 tons.

3.9.3 *Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of water quality shall be implemented.* Yes

Comment

The site has quantified the performance of the targets set in the Water stewardship plan which includes Best Practice such as:
1. According to the water quality monitoring plan, the site entrusts a third-party laboratory to test its various water quality. According to the test report and analysis record provided by the site, the water quality is 100% in line with its internal control standard.
2. Set the emission target below 30% of the regulatory standard.
3. The total discharge targets for COD and ammonia nitrogen pollutants in 2025 are set at 76 tons and 16 tons respectively, representing a reduction of 3.4% and 3.6% compared to the total discharge of 78.7 tons and 16.6 tons in 2024.
4. The acid and alkali solutions recovered from the cleaning and sterilization equipment in the workshop are filtered through acid-alkali ceramic membranes, stored in recycling tanks, and then reused for cleaning equipment at the car wash facility. The reduced concentration of the acid and alkali solutions after secondary recycling helps alleviate the treatment load on the wastewater treatment plant.
The site tracks the progress of its Water Stewardship targets regularly.

3.9.4 *Actions towards achieving best practice, related to targets in terms of the site's maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas shall be implemented.* Yes

Comment	A series of water stewardship plans are implemented to achieve the maintenance of IWRAs. On March 20, 2025, the site organized a World Water Day event in partnership with the local Water Authority and a nearby primary school. The activities, themed "Campus Science Lecture, Exploring Milk & Water, Appreciating Water Conservancy, and the Glacier Action," included a site visit to the local water treatment plant to learn about water treatment processes. On March 17, 2025, the site joined forces with the local Forest Fire and Rescue Brigade to launch the "Shizuishan Glacier Protection Action." Volunteers collected waste from the snow and ice to prevent pollution, protect local water resources and ecological balance, and raise public environmental awareness. On September 20, 2025, the site collaborated with its suppliers to conduct a river patrol and shoreline cleanup along the Ant River, removing waste from the riverbanks. On World Environment Day, June 5th every year, the site joined forces with the Shangzhi Ecological Environment Bureau to launch a water conservation and environmental protection campaign in the city center. The initiative called on citizens to take action to save water and protect the environment, thereby strengthening public awareness of ecological conservation.	
3.9.5	*Actions towards achieving best practice related to targets in terms of WASH shall be implemented.*	Yes
Comment	1. The site conducts WBCSD self-assessment to evaluate the level of onsite WASH and the final result was 1.8. 2. The site carried out a questionnaire survey on employee satisfaction regarding drinking water, sanitation, and facilities. 3. Sanitation and hygiene installations are checked and cleaned daily, water purifiers are checked daily and maintained when needed.	
3.9.6	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of good water governance shall be quantified.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	
3.9.7	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of sustainable water balance shall be quantified.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	
3.9.8	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *Achievement of identified best practices related to targets in terms of water quality shall be quantified*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	
3.9.9	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *Achievement of identified best practices related to targets in terms of the site's maintenance of Important Water-Related Areas have been implemented.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	
3.9.10	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *Achievement of identified best practice related to targets in terms of WASH shall be quantified.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	
3.9.11	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *A list of efforts to spread best practices shall be identified.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	

3.9.12	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *A list of collective action efforts, including the organizations involved, positions of responsible persons of other entities involved, and a description of the role played by the site shall be identified.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	
3.9.13	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *Evidence of the quantified improvement that has resulted from the collective action relative to a site-selected baseline date shall be identified and evidence from an appropriate range of stakeholders linked to the collective action (including both those implementing the action and those affected by the action) that the site is materially and positively contributing to the achievement of the collective action shall be identified.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	

4	STEP 4: EVALUATE - Evaluate the site's performance.	
4.1	*Evaluate the site's performance in light of its actions and targets from its water stewardship plan and demonstrate its contribution to achieving water stewardship outcomes.*	
4.1.1	*Performance against targets in the site's water stewardship plan and the contribution to achieving water stewardship outcomes shall be evaluated.*	Yes
Comment	The site conducted a water stewardship management review on January 9, 2026, reviewing the water stewardship management performance for 2025. The review covered the requirements of evaluating site performance and its contribution to achieving water stewardship results based on the objectives of the water stewardship plan.	
4.1.2	*Value creation resulting from the water stewardship plan shall be evaluated.*	Yes
Comment	The cost saving in the measures of water balance and water quality was identified and evaluated, and the intangible value in water governance and WASH was also assessed.	
4.1.3	*The shared value benefits in the catchment shall be identified and where applicable, quantified.*	Yes
Comment	The site analyzed its value creation resulting from the implementation of water stewardship plan. For example: • The water-related promotion activities strength the awareness of 530 people. • The site reduces the wastewater volume via optimize the production process and reduce the leakage liquid.	
4.1.4	*Advanced Indicator* *A governance or executive-level review, including discussion of shared water challenges, water risks, and opportunities, and any water-related cost savings or benefits realized, and any relevant incidents shall be identified.*	N/A
Comment	This indicator is not mandatory for gold level.	
4.2	*Evaluate the impacts of water-related emergency incidents (including extreme events), if any occurred, and determine the effectiveness of corrective and preventative measures.*	
4.2.1	*A written annual review and (where appropriate) root-cause analysis of the year's emergency incident(s) shall be prepared and the site's response to the incident(s) shall be evaluated and proposed preventative and corrective actions and mitigations against future incidents shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	No water-related emergencies or extreme events occurred at the site in recent years. The site has developed several water-related incident response plans and conducted the water-related incident response drills regularly, such as drilling of hazardous chemicals spill drill, WWTP malfunction and flooding ect.	
4.3	*Evaluate stakeholders' consultation feedback regarding the site's water stewardship performance, including the effectiveness of the site's engagement process.*	
4.3.1	*Consultation efforts with stakeholders on the site's water stewardship performance shall be identified.*	No
Comment	The site does not consult with various stakeholders to obtain feedback on its water stewardship performance for 2025.	

Finding No: TNR-022768

4.3.2	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *The site's efforts to address shared water challenges shall be evaluated by stakeholders. This shall include stakeholder reviewing of the site's efforts across all five outcome areas, and their suggestions for continual improvement.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	
4.4	*Evaluate and update the site's water stewardship plan, incorporating the information obtained from the evaluation process in the context of continual improvement.*	
4.4.1	*The site's water stewardship plan shall be modified and adapted to incorporate any relevant information and lessons learned from the evaluations in this step and these changes shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The site has developed a procedure which specifies that its water stewardship plan shall be modified and adapted to incorporate any relevant information and lessons learned from the evaluations. The site will summarize its experience and update it in the next year's water stewardship plan.	

5	STEP 5: COMMUNICATE & DISCLOSE - Communicate about water stewardship and disclose the site's stewardship efforts	
5.1	*Disclose water-related internal governance of the site's management, including the positions of those accountable for legal compliance with water-related local laws and regulations.*	
5.1.1	*The site's water-related internal governance, including positions of those accountable for compliance with water-related laws and regulations shall be disclosed.*	Yes
Comment	The site disclosed the site's internal governance in relation to water, communication on sustainable water management issues on Mengniu's website. https://www.mengniu.com.cn/contact/detail/25218.html	
5.2	*Communicate the water stewardship plan with relevant stakeholders.*	
5.2.1	*The water stewardship plan, including how the water stewardship plan contributes to AWS Standard outcomes, shall be communicated to relevant stakeholders.*	Yes
Comment	The site communicated its Water Stewardship Plan with key stakeholders through face to face, interviews, and questionnaires, including suppliers, clients, water related infrastructure, surrounding residents, surrounding enterprises and local governments, etc.	
5.3	*Disclose annual site water stewardship summary, including: the relevant information about the site's annual water stewardship performance and results against the site's targets.*	
5.3.1	*A summary of the site's water stewardship performance, including quantified performance against targets, shall be disclosed annually at a minimum.*	Yes
Comment	The site disclosed the water stewardship performance of 2025 at the bulletin board of the site's entrance. And also communicated its water stewardship performance with key stakeholders through face to face, interviews, and questionnaires, including suppliers, clients. water related infrastructure, surrounding residents, surrounding enterprises and local governments, etc.	
5.3.2	*Advanced Indicator* *The site's efforts to implement the AWS Standard shall be disclosed in the organization's annual report.*	N/A
Comment	This indicator is not mandatory for gold level.	
5.3.3	*Voluntary Advanced Indicator* *Benefits to the site and stakeholders from implementation of the AWS Standard shall be quantified in the organization's annual report.*	N/A
Comment	The site does not perform this indicator.	
5.4	*Disclose efforts to collectively address shared water challenges, including: associated efforts to address the challenges;engagement with stakeholders; and co-ordination with public-sector agencies.*	
5.4.1	*The site's shared water-related challenges and efforts made to address these challenges shall be disclosed.*	Yes

Comment	The site disclosed the shared water-related challenges and the effort at the bulletin board of the site's entrance. And also communicated the shared water-related challenges and the effort with key stakeholders through face to face, interviews, and questionnaires, including suppliers, clients. water related infrastructure, surrounding residents, surrounding enterprises and local governments, etc.	
5.4.2	*Efforts made by the site to engage stakeholders and coordinate and support public-sector agencies shall be identified.*	Yes
Comment	The site advocates stakeholder participation through multiple channels, which mainly include: 1. Conducting stakeholder surveys to collect water-related topics of concern to stakeholders and disclosing the site's water management plans and performance. 2. Visiting key stakeholders, such as government agencies, infrastructure agencies, neighboring enterprises. 3. Collaborating with suppliers and brother companies to share water management experiences, engage in collective actions, and establish mutual assistance mechanisms.	
5.5	*Communicate transparency in water-related compliance: make any site water-related compliance violations available upon request as well as any corrective actions the site has taken to prevent future occurrences.*	
5.5.1	*Any site water-related compliance violations and associated corrections shall be disclosed.*	Yes
Comment	A procedure to manage non-conformance and related corrective action is developed, there is no water-related compliance violation identified in past few years.	
5.5.2	*Necessary corrective actions taken by the site to prevent future occurrences shall be disclosed if applicable.*	Yes
Comment	A procedure to manage non-conformance and related corrective action is developed, there is no water-related compliance violation identified in past few years.	
5.5.3	*Any site water-related violation that may pose significant risk and threat to human or ecosystem health shall be immediately communicated to relevant public agencies and disclosed.*	Yes
Comment	A procedure to manage non-conformance and related corrective action is developed, there is no water-related compliance violation identified in past few years.	

Previous Findings

	All non-conformities raised in the previous audit have been satisfactorily closed.	N/A
Comment	This is an initial audit.	